

THE COLDEST OF ALL RACES.

The ancient Huns seem to have been the ugliest of all the ugly races of Central Asia and the homeliest individual with one exception—was probably the "Ugly Prophet of Bokhara," Mullah Joo Said, the repulsiveness of whose features was so overpowering that he did not dare to show himself without a mask, by which he afterward substituted a pig's tail, whence his surname, Almu-kana—"The Ugly One." Yet, his daughter, Ben Chahid, assures us that an older cousin of Almu-kana, who justly declined to hide his face, excelled him notably in erudition but also in ugliness. This man, called Kotta Ben Laka, and famous as a philosopher and mathematician, must actually have been the plus ultra of homeliness. He was an accomplished teacher of languages, but his pupils could procure of the Lycæum of Bagdad were adult males, of exceptional fortitude, all other-thing overcome by the terrors of his presence. When Almu-kana, the Caliph, appeared after the best teacher of the French language, the name of Ben Laka was mentioned among those of the highest merit, but when further in-quired proved this worthy to be identi- cal with the formidable licentiate of Bagdad Almu-kana, who wanted the in- structor for his own son, was earnestly agreed to after his chosen, as a Prince of such tender years would surely suc- ceed to nervous prostration at the first geometrical diagram. The Caliph himself, amidst these fears and ordered the mathematician to report at his court; but no sooner had Kotta Ben Laka made his obeisance to the Commander of the Faith- ful than he was presented with a purse of 400 golden denarii and a bond fifty years if he would leave the capital be- hind him. He had been summoned through a misunderstanding, they told him, and the Caliph did not wish it to become public that by his mistake an illustrious scholar had thus been foolishly interested in his studies.

ISLANDER'S CATCHING.

When the hunter has found a rubber tree, he first clears away a space from the roots, and then moves on in search of others, returning to commence opera- tions as soon as he has marked all the trees in the vicinity. He first of all digs a hole in the ground, and then cuts in the tree a V-shaped incision, with a machete, as high as he can reach. The milk is caught as it exudes and flows into the hole. As soon as the flow from the cuts has ceased the tree is cut down, and the trunk raised from the ground by means of an improvised crane. After placing large leaves to catch the sap, gashes are cut throughout the entire length, and the milk carefully collected. When it first exudes the sap is of the whiteness and consistency of cream, but it turns black on exposure to the air. When the hole is filled with rubber, it is coagulated by adding hard soap or the root of the metaxosan, which have a most rapid action, and prevent the escape of the water that is always present in the fresh sap. When coagulated sufficiently, the rubber is carried on the backs of the hunters by back-things to the banks of the river and flaked down on rafts. The annual destruction of rubber trees in Columbia is a very great, and the industry must soon disappear altogether, unless the Government puts in force a law that should forbid, which compels the hunt- ers to tap the trees without cutting them down. If this law were strictly carried out there would be a good opening for commercial enterprise, for rubber trees will grow from eight to ten inches in diameter in three or four years from seed. The trees require but little at- tention, and begin to yield returns soon- er than any other. Those that yield the greatest amount of rubber flourish on the banks of the Sinu and Asato rivers. The value of the crude India- rubber imported into the States annu- ally is about \$10,000,000.

President Harrison's Charge.

Many of our old readers can recall the gloom cast over the nation by the death of President Harrison. He was the first President who had died in office. His administration had endured but "one little month." It was reported that he had been killed by the "poisonous" politics who had lost his day and night, clamoring for office. His successor, Vice President Tyler, was unknown to the country, and there were many fears that the Whigs would not gather the fruits of their great political victory. Newspapers appeared in mourning, flags, churches and public buildings were draped with emblems of woe, and everywhere profound funeral discourses. It was a day of great mourning in the nation. The report that the politicians had killed the President had a basis of fact. The opportunities had so overtaken his political powers that he was unable to meet an attack of pneumonia. He was an early riser, and used to go to market. The spring was cold and stormy, but the President would not wear an overcoat. One morning he was wet by a shower, but refused to change his clothes. Pneumonia seized him the next day. Washington life, with its late hours and ravenous office-eaters, had en- feebled the old man accustomed to the simple life and early hours of his plain childhood. He became delirious. His broken ex- pressions showed that the politicians had murdered him. "My dear madams," he would say, "I did not direct that your husband should be turned out. I did not know it. I tried to prevent it." "His wrong," he exclaimed at another time, "I won't commit; it is unjust." These applications will they never cease? His last words seemed addressed to his successor. Clearing his throat, he said with distinctness, "Sir, I wish you to understand the true principles of the Government. I wish them carried out. I say nothing more."

A Lock of Hair.

Few things in this weary world are so delightful as keep-sakes. Nor do they ever, to the heart, at least, nor to our eye, lose their tender, their powerful charm. How slight, how small, how tiny a memorial saves a beloved one from oblivion, worn on the finger or close to the heart, especially if they be dead. No thought is so inexpressible as that of entire, total, blank forgetful- ness; when the creature that once laughed and sang, and wept to us, close to our side, or in our very arms, is as if her smile, her voice, her tears, her kisses had never been. She and them all swallowed up in the dark nothing- ness of the dust. Of all keepsakes, memorials, relics, most dearly, most devoutly do we love a little lock of hair. And, oh, when the head it beautified has long mouldered in the dust, how spiritual seems the un- dying glowiness of the sole remaining ringlet! All else gone to nothing, save and except that soft, smooth, burnished and glorious fragment of the appareling that once hung in curls and sunshine over an angel's brow. Ay, a lock of hair is far better than any picture; it is a part of the beloved object herself; it belonged to the tresses that often, long, long ago, may have all been suddenly disheveled, like a shower of sunbeams, over your beating breast. But how solemn thoughts sadden the beauty once so bright, so refulgent.

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